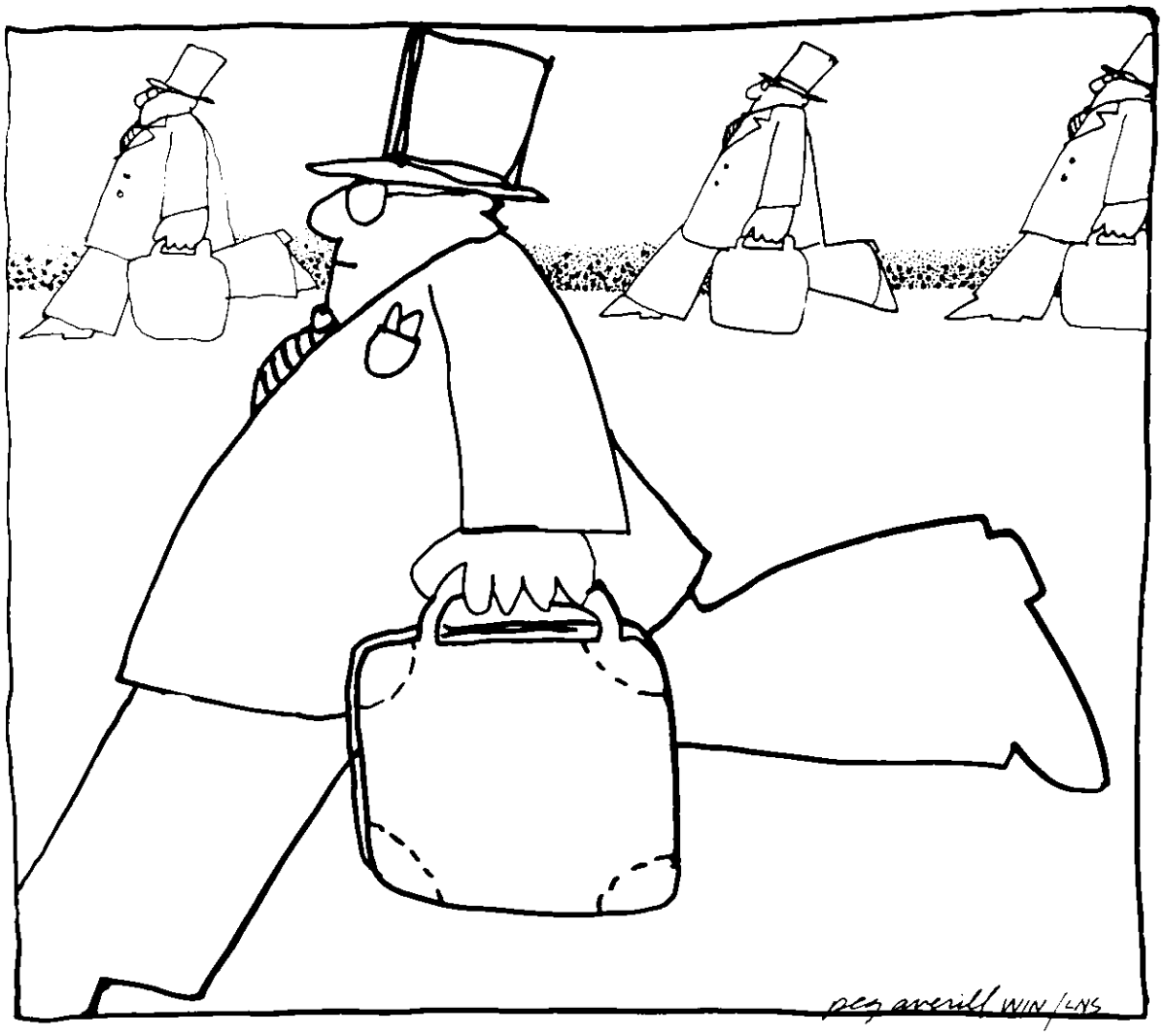

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scheduled for that day. The hearing has been postponed more than ten times and the latest postponement came just two weeks after the government's denial of political asylum.

Picketers marched outside the Federal building where the March 29 hearing was to take place, and more than 300 people came to a Los Angeles rally in support of undocumented workers several days earlier.

Medina's deportation hearing is now set for May 12.

* * *

For more information contact the Jose Medina Defense Committee at 1523 Brooklyn Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90033.

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NOTES FROM THE COLLECTIVE

We want to call your attention to the article on page 1 and 2 of this packet about the "green ban" movement in Australia--an encouraging alliance between organized labor, environmentalists and community groups. In numerous cases over the past few years, labor unions in Australia have refused to do work on projects that are environmentally and/or socially destructive. The article can easily be shortened by removing one or more of the sections which give specific examples.

April 17 is the second anniversary of the liberation of Cambodia, marking the ouster of the repressive Lon Nol government and the end to U.S. intervention in Cambodia. See LNS packets 837 and 855 for current information on the policies and accomplishments of the new government, and an LNS interview with a Cambodian man on the day to day lives of the people there. See also the graphics packet, in packet 857, for photographs from Cambodia.

A celebration of the anniversary will be held in New York City on April 22 at 7:30 at 116 W. 11 St. Speakers will include a member of the Group of Khmer (Cambodian) Residents in America, and a full-length color movie, "A Heroic People," filmed in Cambodia at the end of the war, will be shown.

That's all for now.

LNS

IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON

(graphics)

CONFRONTING THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF LABOR: AUSTRALIAN LABOR, ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER DISCUSSES "GREEN BANS"

(Editor's Note: Time and time again, environmentalists and organized labor are at loggerheads in a struggle over jobs versus environmental and social concerns. Many people are frustrated by this apparent proposition, and believe that an alliance between labor and environmentalists is the only way people's need for employment and a decent environment can both be met. Such an alliance has already developed in Australia.

What follows are comments made by Australian labor-environmental leader Jack Munday. Munday is a member of the Australian Communist Party and his union, the Australian Builders Laborers Union, pioneered Australia's "green bans"--direct labor intervention on behalf of the natural and social environment.

Munday has been in the U.S. to talk with labor and environmental leaders and citizens groups about the Australian green ban movement, and received invitations to speak with other groups all over the U.S. Apparently that prospect is not universally welcome, as Munday was recently denied a visa to the U.S. under the McCarran Act, which bans the entry of Communist Party members into the country.

The following remarks, from an interview conducted with Munday in San Francisco, appeared in the March issue of "Not Man Apart," the semi-monthly publication of the environmental organization Friends of the Earth. They've been edited for length by LNS. The rest of the interview with Munday will be published in the Spring issue of "Co-Evolution Quarterly."

SAN FRANCISCO ("Not Man Apart", LNS)--The Australian "green ban" movement consists of workers refusing to build projects that would be socially or environmentally destructive. The green ban movement marked the first time in industrialized countries that a coalition of workers or unions has withheld labor in the service of broader community interests. It's the first time that unions started examining the *end result* of labor--which buildings should be built, which products should be made.

Unions have always been involved in the unemployment problem, but the green bans were the first time that unions confronted *mal*employment--the whole issue of the social consequences of labor, the nature of labor, and the end product of labor.

The Australian Builders Laborers Federation, the union that started the movement (and of which I was a leader), was not a tradesmen's union. It was a workers' union and one with a history of corrupt leadership: the usual thing--the union leadership working hand in glove with management, blacklisting militant workers, engaging in thuggery. And we resolved when we broke through and won leadership in that union to prevent this happening again to the best of our ability.

We fought for the right of women to work in the industry. It had been an all-male enclave before then. And we won that right out.

We engaged in "stop work" to stop the Vietnam War, and in fact led that campaign, where workers walked off jobs to join up with students and other progressive citizens in huge rallies.

Also, when a white South African rugby team toured Australia, we organized rallies against them and took to the field and stopped the games on occasion to highlight apartheid and how wrong it is.

Our union has, of course, also done the orthodox things. We have improved wages and conditions. So we hadn't neglected the basics. And that allowed us to go into more political actions.

There was a strike of the students and staff at Sydney University over the right of women to have their own course on social liberation, women's social liberation. And the university authorities said, yes, they can have it, but only if the university authorities run it, and it will not be solely run by women. A strike took place. There was a lot of building going on that was needed for the next university year, and to bring the strike to a head the Builders Laborers were requested to impose a ban, which we did. We had a significant part in winning that strike.

The Strength Of The Green Ban

So it was a union slightly different from the normal union. We also had an environment policy. We believe we've got the right to intervene in anything concerning the worker, and we think that it's very much in order to withhold our labor so as to allow people to demonstrate their opposition to the destruction of the bushland.

Green bans became very, very controversial in Australia. We were inundated with requests. And at the end of four years, we had imposed 42 bans, holding up $4 billion worth of work.

Now I think the strength of the movement was that we never arrogantly or arbitrarily went around imposing green bans. We always imposed the green bans at the request of a very substantial expression of community desire.

And we imposed the bans not as an end in themselves, but to allow people in those areas to have a greater say and not just leave it to the bureaucracy of the government of the day to make myopic decisions that they might regret later on. Because we always based our policies on the residents, we kept, I think, a respectability, even though the papers were naturally trying to malign us.

We argued that we were putting forward alternative propositions for work. We were saying that by stopping the high-rise destruction of Sydney we were forcing the same developers to reinvest their money in areas of less profitability, but of more social use--namely flats and houses and apartments for working people. Therefore it wasn't just a negative action.

Working People Save "The Rocks"

The Rocks, for instance, is the oldest part of white Australia. It was where the convicts first came and had to cut into the sandstone to build. The oldest homes in Australia are still down there right by Sydney harbor. It was a neighborhood of people who serviced the city, people who worked on the docks, people who worked on the ferries, or worked in the city proper.

Well, of course with the central business district getting smaller and higher, this land became more valuable. And so the government of the day decided that it would push down all these homes and build further concrete, glass, and aluminum monsters.

Residents of the Rocks came to us and said, "We've lived here for all our lives; we lived here for generations, and it should be retained. If there is going to be any redevelopment, we should have a say in what sort of development. But we shouldn't knock it all down and put up high-rises."

Again our union took the position that it had to be the people who made the decision. Well, more than 1,000 people came to the first meeting where they requested the green ban be imposed. And then the residents took the initiative by coming forward with their own "people's plan" for The Rocks, which spelled out in detail what should be built there. Residents argued that their plan would create more work in the long run than if the high-rises had been built.

The Rocks are still standing. If the ban hadn't been imposed, that neighborhood would be just a continuation of the insurance companies, banks, right down to the Sydney harbor.

Roadways And Rain Forests

A network of motorways was proposed for Sydney that would have meant the demolition of 25,000 homes. The union opposed the construction and supported the Save Public Transport Committee.

Our members voted not to demolish any house or any building, flat, or apartment in the proposed path of the motorway. That has held for four years, though the fight isn't over yet. We're saying, can't we learn from the tragedies of Toronto, of Los Angeles, of Tokyo? The money that would be spent on an expensive motorway should be redirected towards public transport.

There is now a movement beyond just the Builders Laborers Union. We have 14 unions in various parts of Australia that have engaged in some sort of environmental action. I'll just give a couple of the outstanding successes.

Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world. It's on the barrier reef off the east coast of Queensland, which is in a tropical area. It has a uniquely beautiful rain forest and a very fragile ecology because of the sand formation. Dillingham Corporation, the multi-national, received the right to go in and sand mine the island. Environmentalists argued that if this occurred, the island would be spoiled forever.

Dillingham immediately took up the usual hypocritical hue and cry, saying here they are giving men work, and these men will lose work, and so on. The environmentalists countered by saying that in the long run, keeping the island as a haven for bushwalkers, for naturalists, would generate far more employment than allowing mining for a short term. The mining would be capital and energy intensive, would use very few actual workers, and would destroy a resource forever. The nearby city of Maryborough on the coast would gain more employment over 15 or 20 years if the island is undisturbed.

The trade union movement refused to take the bulldozers over to the island. ...The government finally held an inquiry and concluded that Fraser Island should not be mined. So that was an outright victory.

Banning Nuclear Power

Another outstanding victory, I think, is the nuclear power station which was to be built right near Melbourne, which has a population of almost 3 million. ...Environmentalists and citizens opposed the nuclear station on a number of grounds. First of all, was the energy really needed? And second, if it was to be built, it should be built elsewhere, on the coal fields of Central Victoria, where it would create employment and would be less damaging to the environment.

That ban has held for two years despite very strong opposition and the spending of millions of the public's money to try to state the electricity commission's case.

The government has threatened to jail leaders, confiscate union funds, and so on if the unions continue to stand in the path of what the government somewhat vaguely calls "vital projects." But the ban has still held, and the majority of trade unions in the Victoria Trades Hall Council have stood firm.

We are finding that there is a more serious questioning of the whole so-called nuclear solution. There has survived in Australia a strong feeling that we should have some greater control over our own resources.

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(Single copies of CoEvolution Quarterly are available for $2.50 from P.O. Box 428, Sausalito, CA 94965. Not Man Apart is available at 529 Commercial St., San Francisco, CA 94111.)

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INVESTIGATIONS REVEAL HIDDEN EXECUTIVE FRINGE BENEFITS

NEW YORK (LNS)--As if executive salaries weren't high enough these days, many top level businessmen have their hands in the till.

Investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have unearthed evidence on one executive who borrowed more than $1.5 million from his company and arranged later for the debt to be cancelled. Another businessman received hundreds of thousands of dollars in extra benefits, including a yacht.

"We're told everybody's doing it, and what's the difference whether it shows up as salary?" SEC Enforcement Division director Stanley Sporkin told Business Week magazine. "The difference is the salary is up front, this is hidden."

"This could be extremely widespread," Sporkin continued. "When we started with company slush funds (in the Congressional bribery investigations) they were said to be only $100,000. They turned out to be in the millions."

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MARCH IN BIRMINGHAM TO LET "THE TRUTH BE HEARD" ON NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF KING'S DEATH

Editor's note: The following article was written by Steve Whitman in Birmingham, Alabama. It was edited by LNS.

BIRMINGHAM, AL (LNS)--It had rained for six days in a row in Birmingham and on April 4 a tornado touched down on the edge of the city, blowing 200 houses away. Nevertheless, over 100 people gathered in downtown Birmingham that day, on the ninth anniversary of Martin Luther King's death. The lead banner got to the heart of the matter -- "Stop Police Crimes and End the Media Whitewash. We Demand the Truth Be Heard."

The demonstrators gathered at the park where King and local civil rights leaders protested in the past. Across the street stands the Sixteenth St. Baptist Church where four black girls were murdered by a bomb on September 15, 1963.

Now, older people who had marched and demonstrated with King came together in the rain with young people, some of whom had marched with the civil rights leader as children. From the park, they moved through the downtown area to the Birmingham News Building. On the way many onlookers showed support with upraised fists and horn salutes. One very old Black woman called out, "God Bless you, I'd be marching with you if I wasn't crippled."

Rev. Robert M. Kinnon, a militant opponent of police brutality, carried a mock-up of a hanging body which he said represented his son. Just a few weeks ago, McKinnon's son was found dead in his jail cell, an alleged suicide.

"That's one of the reasons we're demonstrating here today," McKinnon told a reporter when he asked if he believed the official police story.

The Birmingham News Building houses both of the city's white newspapers -- neither one of which sent reporters to cover the march. Outside the building, several speakers attacked the papers' bias against the black community, and lack of coverage of police crimes.

The march then pushed on to City Hall. There Matondi, director of the Committee for Prisoner Support in Birmingham, one of the demonstration's sponsors, led off with an explosive speech:

"A government is no better than its leadership, and the oppression and repression that engulfs this city are direct reflections of a callous and degenerate leadership within the city's government. We are here to say that we are tired of being abused by police bullies and callous city officials and to demand equal protection and equal application of the law."

Mayor David Vann refused to come down and meet the demonstrators, but a march participant presented a list of 11 demands to Black City Council member Dr. Richard Arrington, the only member of city government who came to meet them.

The demands included the immediate firing of Police Chief James Parsons; the establishment of a Citizens Review Board to investigate all complaints against the police department; the firing of one policeman who has killed five people since he's been on the force; the prosecution of two ex-Birmingham jail wardens for the rape of a woman prisoner; and the improvement of conditions at the jail so that they be "brought into accordance with proper living standards for human beings."

Ruby Williams, a leader of the Alabama Welfare Rights Organization, another demonstration sponsor, told the crowd, "One of the greatest leaders of our time, Dr. King, was killed by racist forces in this country, and many of them are in this building, having put away their Klan robes for ties and suits. But we know them only too well."

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DEBUTANTES "COME OUT" IN FULL FORCE

NEW YORK (LNS)--After a four or five year decline, the debutante coming-out party, an "American tradition" since Colonial days, has just had its biggest year ever.

The cash registers have been ringing and ballroom floors swaying to the traditional father-daughter opener "Thank Heaven for Little Girls" -- from Philadelphia, Charleston and Baltimore, where the balls predate the Republic, to Miami where the daughters of wealthy Cuban exiles "come out" in repli as of pre-Cuban Revolution Havana nightclubs.

A United Press International survey of debutante holiday parties across the country shows that the number of large public "presentation" parties and private debuts, as well as the number of debs, has risen in the past two years.

In the past, St. Louis' Veiled Prophet Ball has been "marred" by black activist denunciations of racism and a feminist zap in which the "prophet" (who crowns the queen) was unmasked. Now, said the current Queen of the Veiled Prophet, "That's a past thing. People aren't against society so much anymore. We're much more relaxed. There's nothing snobby about it."

At $150 for the evening for a deb and "escort," the prestigious and selective New York Infirmary Benefit is a bargain among balls. The San Francisco Cotillion costs a basic $1500 per family.

Private parties -- such as a circus party that Dallas attorney Henry Stollenwerk gave his daughter Brooke this season -- can run even more. Dallas society still remembers the $150,000 that another local aristocrat spent on his daughter's debut four years ago.

Amidst the new popularity of the coming out party, a few famous debs of modern times say they wouldn't do it again, however. Said Charlotte, the older daughter of Henry Ford II whose 1959 debut cost an estimated $250,000, "It was great fun at the time, but now I would think more debs would think of something like a trip to Europe. People's values change."

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(SEE GRAPHICS to go with this story.)

(See graphics to go with this story)

NEW CUTS CANCEL OUT NEEDED REFORM IN CARTER'S FOOD STAMP PROPOSAL

NEW YORK (LNS)--In the "grand old spirit of political compromise," the Carter Administration has coupled a long sought after liberal reform in the food stamp system with a reduction in benefits for a substantial number of recipients.

Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland announced the Carter plan in testimony before the House Agriculture Committee on April 5. The major reform centers on the "elimination of purchasing requirement" -- or EPR.

Currently food stamp recipients are required to pay in cash for their food stamps. On an average, they pay for 44% of the value of the stamps, with the other 56% provided by the government.

But critics of the current program have charged that many people are too poor to gather together roughly 50% of their net income in cash each month to pay for the stamps. By eliminating the purchasing requirement and giving the government-sponsored portion of the food stamps out directly, an estimated 2.5 million people could be brought into the program.

"It makes so much sense," said Jeff Kirsch of the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) in Washington D.C. "It not only lets people in to the program that have never been able to get in, but it really streamlines the whole program."

Conservative opposition to this reform has always centered on the fact that it would do away with the premise of the current program -- the setting aside of a fixed portion of poor families' incomes to spend on food and the implication that other expenditures are wasteful. Elimination of the purchasing requirement, they say, would amount to "just another welfare handout."

"They want to impose budgeting on poor families," said Kirsch, "but if a family gives $20 to the government and gets $40 worth of food stamps, there they are with their money all tied up in paper. They don't have any flexibility to say, do something silly like pay a light bill."

The food industry has also opposed the reform. Food stamps make up 8% of the grocery dollar today, and the industry has a vested interest in having as much money committed to food purchases as possible.

1.5 Million Recipients To Be Cut

If the EPR is a positive aspect of the Carter plan, other parts are definitely not. In order to bring 2.5 million more people into the program and not vastly increase its budget, Carter has called for cutting 1.5 million people now on the program off completely, and reducing benefits to almost a third of all eligible families.

These cuts would come about with the creation of a ceiling on income eligibility, and a standardized deduction for expenses. Currently there is no ceiling on the amount of gross income, but a family of four must prove that their net income is not more than $6,550 in order to be eligible for stamps.

Under the proposed plan, a family must subtract a standard deduction for their income and if the resulting net figure is $5,500 a year or less -- the official poverty level for a family of four -- they get stamps. A "working" family is allowed an additional 20% deduction to cover pay roll deductions, child care and other working expenses.

Critics at the Food Research & Action Center point out serious faults in these plans.

1) There is no allowance for higher costs in certain regions of the country, particularly in areas with colder climates where heating costs are higher. For instance, in the Northwest region, the proposed standard deduction would result in an average reduction of 18% in the dollar value benefits.

And of families now receiving benefits in that area, 13% would be cut from the program and 36% would suffer benefit reductions.

2) Secondly, FRAC argues that the federal poverty level -- soon scheduled to go up to $5,850 -- is still too low. Many of the people who would be cut from the program are people with very high expenses like housing and medical costs, who would no longer be able to claim these as deductions. Others would be cut off because they are right at the top of the income cut off figure now ($6,550) -- although this amounts to a meager $124 a week for a family of four.

"What the Carter Administration is doing is making the decision to cut off people at the top in order to pay for some of the people coming in at the bottom," said Kirsch. "But the new poor people coming into the program shouldn't have to take the money out of the pockets of people already in the program."

According to FRAC, the Carter bill has a reasonable chance of passing. They are hoping that Congress can be pressured to make some improvements in the bill -- particularly in ceiling eligibility and regional hardships. Last year Congress spent months on the bill but ran out of time before they came up with anything. The current act expires September 30, 1977.

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IS YOUR JOB KILLING YOU?

NEW YORK (LNS)--About one out of every 11 workers suffered a job-related injury or illness during 1975, and approximately 5000 workers died from work-related causes.

These statistics, recently released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), reflect a slight decrease from 1974. However, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union newsletter on health and safety points out that the decline is "misleading" since the jobless rate also rose drastically from 1974 to 1975. "With less people working there would naturally be fewer accidents," explained the bulletin.

The bulletin also pointed out that the BLS statistics usually ignore most occupational diseases. "Since most occupational illnesses take years to show up and also because occupational diseases are often attributed to other causes, only those diseases which result in acute illness or death are likely to be reported as occupationally related."

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UMASS STUDENTS PROTEST COLLEGE SUPPORT FOR S. AFRICA

NEW YORK(LNS)---About 175 students demonstrated at the University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst April 5 to protest the University's investments in 17 corporations that operate in South Africa. Chanting "Apartheid System, we say no; UMass stocks have got to go," students demanded that the University sell its stocks in those corporations currently supporting apartheid through their operations in South Africa.

Currently those investments total over half a million dollars and include some of the biggest U.S. corporations in South Africa -- General Motors, IBM, Exxon, Eastman Kodak and General Electric.

Student anti-apartheid groups at neighboring schools are also organizing around the issue of college support for South Africa. At Hampshire and Amherst Colleges students have demanded that the Boards of Trustees protest and sell their stocks in all corporations that operate in South Africa. The Trustees of Hampshire responded by supporting a Texaco shareholder resolution demanding Texaco's withdrawal from South Africa. However, they have not yet made any decision on the demand that they get rid of the stock.

At Smith College, meanwhile, students recently picketed the college's Career Development Office when an IBM representative came to interview prospective employees. Smith College owns $17 million worth of stocks in corporations with investments in South Africa--the largest total investment being in IBM. --30--

UFW SUPPORTERS PROTEST INSURANCE CO.'S LINK WITH CALIFORNIA CITRUS DISPUTE

NEW YORK(LNS)--About 60 United Farm Worker (UFW) supporters demonstrated outside the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company in New York City April 7 to draw public attention to the insurance company's role in the citrus dispute currently raging in California.

Connecticut Mutual controls Coachella Growers Inc. of Indio, California, the largest citrus grower in the Coachella Valley of Southern California. The citrus company for the past 17 months has refused to sign a contract with the UFW--which overwhelmingly won an ALRB-sponsored election at Coachella in September, 1975.

Rather than bargain fairly, the company has harassed its workers with a 14 per cent pay cut, a drastic cutback in the work week, and elimination of needed bus service. The company wants to do away with the union hiring hall, medical plan, union security, grievance procedures and union access to the fields before it will agree to sign a contract.

Coachella Growers is the first large California citrus grower the UFW has bargained with, and the outcome of the contract could set the pace for future contracts covering California's approximately 40,000 citrus workers. --30--

INS DRAGNET FOR ALIENS: WATCH OUT FOR THOSE BROWN PAPER BAGS!

NEW YORK(LNS)--Do you "look Chinese," wear "foreign-cut clothing," "carry lunch in a brown paper bag," or "look as if you are Spanish-speaking"? If so, you could well be watched, questioned, or arrested without a warrant.

A new ACLU handbook, The Rights of Aliens, describes how the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) locates and identifies people who may be "illegal aliens." Describing both the rights and problems of aliens in the United States, author David Carliner asserts that concern over "illegal aliens" is leading to increasing problems for all foreign-born persons here, whether aliens or U.S. citizens.

The study discloses a memorandum by the New York INS office which instructs investigators that "persons from Latin and South American countries generally will retain their habit of wearing their clothing in a style they were accustomed to in their native countries," or wear "foreign-cut clothing which is immediately distinguishable."

Another sign of being an alien, the memorandum states, is that "in addition to their dress, these persons will also be carrying their lunch in brown paper bags."

Although arrests of aliens in these circumstances violate the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, Carlinger points out that courts have so far failed to acknowledge illegal arrest or to set aside any deportation order on the grounds of illegal arrest by INS officers.

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(Copies of the booklet are available from ACLU chapters for $1.50.)

J P STEVENS WORKERS INHALE BROWN LUNG-CAUSING DUST

NEW YORK(D&S/LNS)--Official inspection by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration have provided yet another reason for consumers to boycott J P. Stevens textiles: Significant numbers of the 1700 workers employed in two of Stevens' North Carolina plants were exposed -- over a normal workday -- to more than twelve times the amount of air-borne cotton dust permitted by federal health standards.

Excessive dust causes a crippling respiratory disease known as Brown Lung.

The Stevens boycott has been called by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union as part of a campaign for unionization of Stevens plants.

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"The simple truth is that there is nothing even remotely resembling "imperialism" or "militarism" involved in the present development of that policy of expansion which has been part of the history of America from the day when she became a nation."

-- Teddy Roosevelt, 1900

OCCUPATION OF SEABROOK, N.H. NUCLEAR SITE SET FOR APRIL 30

NEW YORK (LNS)--The Clamshell Alliance -- a coalition of anti-nuclear power groups in the Northeast -- is moving full steam ahead on plans for a massive occupation of the Seabrook, New Hampshire power plant site on April 30.

The Alliance has heard from people and groups in Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, California, Colorado and even Alaska that want to join the occupation. "Seabrook has become a symbol for groups struggling against nuclear power plants in other states," says Kristi Conrad of the Alliance.

Many people in New Hampshire have fought the Public Service Company of New Hampshire for seven years -- or the plant. Seabrook residents voted last year against having the twin 1150 megawatt reactors in their backyard. Six more towns cast votes this spring against the plant or the transportation and storage of radioactive wastes in their areas.

But the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), ignoring volumes of testimony opposed to the plant, issued a construction permit last June.

On August 1, eighteen New Hampshire Clamshell members, backed by at least 600 supporters, occupied the site and were arrested. One hundred eighty people marched on to the site again on August 22, heeded on this time by 1200 supporters. All 180 people were arrested.

Since August, the Clamshell has held a large outdoor alternative energy fair, helped organize teach-ins at colleges and high schools, and continued to inform people about the dangers of nuclear power.

The construction permit issued for Seabrook was initially made conditional on an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval of the plant's cooling system. That system would take in 1.2 billion gallons of ocean water daily and return it -- 40 degrees hotter -- into one of the nation's richest fish and lobster breeding grounds.

The regional EPA rejected the cooling system in November, apparently throwing the future of the plant into limbo. The power company then appealed the ruling and did not abandon the project, though it did substantially cut back on construction.

In January, the NRC Appeals Board suspended the project's construction permit, but again the decision was reversed by the Commission. Then, on March 31, the Commission reversed its own ruling and rescinded the construction permit pending an EPA decision. However, the move still allows the limited construction already underway to continue.

"Only a complete and final cancellation of the nuke," said Conrad, "would lead to a cancellation of the April 30th demonstration."

Instructions for Occupiers

The Alliance wants the upcoming occupation to be as organized and disciplined as possible. No demonstrator will be allowed to take part without first taking a brief workshop in non-violent tactics, the last of which will be offered at 9:30 A.M. on the morning of the demonstration. For more information about campsites and the demonstration itself, contact the Alliance at 62 Congress St., Portsmouth, N.H. 03801 (603) 436-5414. In Boston, call (617) 661-6130 or (617) 267-2928.

A supporter rally will be held at Hampton Beach State Park, near Seabrook, on May 1 at 2 P.M. The Clamshell urges all people opposed to nuclear power, but not ready to occupy the site, to come to the rally.

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"HEALTHY" NEW YORK PATIENTS FACE TRANSFER FROM HOME IN SERIES OF CUTBACKS

NEW YORK (LNS)--Elderly Americans, past their years of "economic productivity," are having their few comforts of old age squeezed from them by rounds of cutbacks in state and federal social services.

The plight of 58 such senior citizens who have been caught up in a money-saving drive by a state Medicaid program was described in a March 18 article by the New York Times. The 58 "healthy" patients are being moved from the United Presbyterian Residence in Woodbury, Long Island, "a health-related facility," to "adult homes" which are said to cost the state less money because they offer no medical supervision.

"I'm hard of hearing," said Anna Scheiber, one of the patients. "I have scars on my cornea. I have a heart condition, I have anginapectoris. Otherwise, I'm healthy, too healthy to stay."

According to Gerald Beallor, the director of social services at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, "There is nothing to protect the patient's rights in all this."

Calling it "crass and dehumanizing," Beallor observed that "we made a long struggle to provide professional care, but the state now is moving back to the concept of warehousing patients and creating a custodial system."

The elderly people being transferred from the church-sponsored home scored too low on a new New York rating system that gives a patient a calculated number of points for various needs and disabilities.

"They don't even know what we look like," commented Bessie Conklin, 87, as she packed her belongings into cartons for the move from her home of seven years.

More of the 90,000 patients in 650 nursing homes in New York will undoubtedly be affected by the state Medicaid program to save $12 million.

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THAI INTERIOR MINISTER RECEIVES LITTLE SUPPORT IN N.Y.C. VISIT

by Ted Chandler

NEW YORK (LNS)--Samak Sunthornvej, the controversial Minister of the Interior in Thailand's military-installed cabinet, failed to win significant support from New York's Thai community in a visit here April 8

The announced purpose of the visit is to consolidate pro-coup sentiment among the 100,000 Thai immigrants in the U S Their support is seen as necessary to help the Bangkok regime head off moves in this country to slash the nearly $140 million in U S aid and credits the Thai military is slated to receive this year

Samak, a key figure in current elite Thai politics, played a central role in last October's military coup, although he is a civilian politician He was rewarded with the Interior portfolio, giving him control of the powerful Border Patrol Police who carried out the attack on Thammasat University immediately before the coup He is closely linked with the most right-wing forces in the country, including the Queen's faction of Thai ruling circles, and Nawapol, a paramilitary organization

So far, Samak's journey has proved in vain, even among the conservative majority of Thai in this country

"I saw only a few listening to him and concentrating," said one observer of Samak's meeting with 150 members of New York's Thai community "Most of the people were just walking around "

Part of the explanation for this is Samak himself, an unbridled egoist who began his talk fifteen minutes early and concluded a four-and-one-half hour monologue at 10:30 P M Called "Big Mouth" by the Voice of the People of Thailand, the radio outlet of the communist-led Thai revolutionary forces, Samak was also frequently caricatured in the pre-coup press as a totally featureless face -- except for an enormous open mouth

More important, however, are Samak's policies -- which include the violent military repression of all popular forces, student, peasant and worker

Last August, only two months before the coup, Samak flew to Singapore to confer with former Thai strongman Thanom Kittakachorn Kittakachorn's return to Bangkok in September precipitated widespread student protests that, in turn, served as a pretext for the attack on Thammasat University and the October 6 coup.

Though Samak was a member of the administration governing at the time, he manipulated the crisis to his own advantage at the expense of more progressive ministers and the former government

Samak has also been closely identified with recent moves to award a substantial tin-mining concession to the Billiton corporation, a Royal Dutch/Shell subsidiary Prior to the coup, this concession was withdrawn following widespread protest by students, intellectuals and hundreds of small tin miners in the southern panhandle who would be ruined trying to compete with the giant multinational firm The current regime recently re-awarded the concession to Billiton

More recently, Samak was in the news last fall, predicting that newly unified Viet Nam was preparing an attack on Thailand. Samak even stipulated the precise moment of the assault -- February 15. The threatened Vietnamese invasion has been a favorite propaganda theme of the Thai militarists in recent years.

The "attack", of course, failed to materialize. Instead, accounts of mysterious incidents on the Cambodian frontier filled the government-censored press, and Samak has been attempting to build alleged "Cambodian attacks" into an issue that would enhance his position It is inherently improbable that a war-devastated nation of 7.5 million would seriously threaten a country of 43 million armed to the teeth with U S. weapons.

Discusses Coup in N Y.C. Talk

Samak had difficulty convincing his New York audience of his assertions concerning last fall's right-wing coup He claimed that Vietnamese snipers, rather than Thai students, had been in control of Thammasat University before it was attacked at the onset of the coup Part of the "proof" he advanced was that four or five of the bodies were set aflame.

"The Vietnamese like to burn themselves, you know," Samak declared, crudely alluding to the Buddhist monks and nuns who immolated themselves to protest U.S intervention and Saigon's misrule in the early 1960's.

Asked why none of the members of right-wing paramilitary groups like the Red Gaurs (literally, a fierce wild animal) had been apprehended for attacking the Thammasat students, Samak at first asserted that no proof of their involvement existed. Reminded of dozens of photographs flashed around the world, including a New York Daily News centerfold, Samak replied:

"The police can't go around finding people Everyone has done something wrong What about you -- you used to gamble, didn't you? Well, the police didn't arrest you'"

Police *did* arrest nearly 3000 union leaders, intellecutals and students in the first hours of the coup.

On other subjects, Samak claimed that foreign investment after the coup "is a lot better than a few years ago " Actually, this is true only in certain sectors, particularly quickly extractable mineral resources In fact some Thai free-enterprise economists feel that Samak's free-wheeling rock-'em-sock' em pronouncements have been scaring off potential investors An attempt to overcome this condition may in fact have been the real reason for Samak's visit to New York

Samak said nothing at all about four labor and student leaders arrested in January and scheduled to face trial soon He also said almost nothing about the threat posed to military rule by the developing revolutionary movement

"The communists are losing and we can win," he blandly asserted People's Liberation Army of Thailand forces have launched major attacks within 70 kilometers of the capital and have established liberated

(this story continued on page 12)

[illegible] AID TO LATIN AMERICA
[illegible] NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM

[illegible] human [illegible] around [illegible] But pre- [illegible] are keeping [illegible] by which [illegible] games [illegible]

[illegible] America [illegible] interception [illegible] mission [illegible] has been pursuing [illegible] of this [illegible] evidence

[illegible] --in the [illegible] changes in [illegible] counterinsurgency [illegible]

[illegible] the com- [illegible] Bolivia, Ecuador and [illegible] ships have [illegible] weap- [illegible] 1970's-- [illegible] International Narcot- [illegible] (INC) of the State Department, [illegible] Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of [illegible] Department.

[illegible] according to figures presented [illegible] Appropriations Committee in May, 1976, [illegible] the training of [illegible] policemen be- [illegible] 1976. The DEA and the U.S. Customs [illegible] Treasury Department carried out the [illegible]

[illegible] this aid is to [illegible] which reaches [illegible] more than $100 mil- [illegible] INC equipment has been sent overseas, most- [illegible] Southeast Asia and to Latin America.

Narcotics assistance to Latin America has been [illegible] in three regions of the continent: Mexico, the Andean countries (Bolivia, Ecuador, [illegible] Colombia) and Argentina. Mexico is the [illegible] of an estimated 80 to 90 percent of the [illegible] now reaching the U.S. The Andean countries [illegible] considered a major source of cocaine.

But Argentina is not a major source of any [illegible] is there a significant level of drug con- [illegible] within the country, according to all re- [illegible] Program descriptions for narcotics [illegible] Argentina, therefore, focus on stop- [illegible] flow of drugs through the country.

There has been a steady stream of en- [illegible] material from the U.S. to a variety of [illegible] police agencies. These include vehicles, [illegible] and photographic, communications [illegible] detection equipment, along with the [illegible] special "narcotics enforcement" agents.

The Political Uses of "Drug Enforcement"

The obvious dangers inherent in these types of aid are that narcotics interception material and training can easily be adapted or shared for counterinsurgency by the police and army, and the Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance (AAA), a notorious right-wing group responsible for scores of political assassinations.

The U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) arrived at just this conclusion in a study published February 19, 1976. It reported a huge jump between 1973 and 1974 in the amount of equipment and commodities being transferred abroad through the INC ($2.2 million in fiscal year 1973; $[illegible] million in FY 74).

This jump, it noted, corresponded almost exactly to the decrease in general police assistance that took place when Congress abolished the Office of Public Safety (OPS) after revelations of its role in financing the infamous "tiger" cages in South Vietnam.

The Accounting Office also reported that commodities which had previously been furnished to police units through the OPS program were now being provided to the same units through the INC program. The responsibility for the items in question had merely been changed from a public safety to an anti-narcotics assignment.

The political uses of U.S. narcotics enforcement aid were [illegible] stated blatantly by [illegible] Lopez Rega, Argentina's Minister of Social Welfare, during the period of greatest INC aid in FY 74 and FY [illegible]

As direct supervisor of the police agencies which received U.S. equipment and training, Lopez Rega held a nationally televised press conference with U.S. Ambassador Robert Hill in May, 1974 to announce a stepped up U.S.-Argentine anti-narcotics program.

"We hope to wipe out the drug traffic in Argentina," he told the press. "We have caught guerrillas after attacks who were high on drugs. Guerrillas are the main users of drugs in Argentina. [illegible]" (emphasis added)

It was in October of the same year that the Argentine government changed its penal code to give the federal police direct nationwide jurisdiction over [illegible] and arrests in narcotics-related cases. This brought Argentina in line with new U.S. Congressional rules that outlawed U.S. aid to non-narcotics police elements. The Argentine Customs Bureau and Border Patrol also established special narcotics units around this time.

The years 1974 and 1975 also saw increased "counterinsurgency" activity by the Argentine Federal Police, intensified Army counterinsurgency operations, and the emergence of the AAA, widely identified with Lopez Rega himself.

Disturbing New Developments

No new INC equipment fund requests have been made in Congress for FY 77 or FY 78, but already approved money is still being spent, narcotics enforcement requests may be submitted in coming fiscal year budgets, and it appears likely that the DEA training will continue. Equally disturbing are technical and

diplomatic developments which increase the potential for coordinated repression among various Latin American countries.

One is the expanded export of computers and data base communications systems to repressive regimes in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. Political prisoners from these places tell of the use of computer printouts during interrogations, and of the sharing of such data among police of various countries.

U.S. manufactured computers have come through the U.S. government (such as Agency for International Development "public safety" programs) as well as through direct sales from private corporations. The Argentine Federal Police use a sophisticated DIGICOM communications system obtained from Texas-based E Systems Co., the 55th largest defense contractor in the U.S.

Argentina, Ecuador, Venezuela and Brazil have also ratified a treaty calling for increased cooperation in enforcement activities and information sharing, with other governments yet to ratify. In announcing Argentina's ratification, Foreign Minister Cesar Guzzetti echoed former minister Lopez Rega when he said that the drug problem would be attacked on two fronts:

"We attack its body through the war against the guerrillas and its spirit through the war against the drug traffic, both carriers of nihilistic and collectivist ideas."

The Argentine ministers have a knack for stating unequivocally, and succinctly, the uses that can be made of the international "war on drugs."

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(Thanks to the Washington D.C. Information Bureau of the Argentine Commmission for Human Rights for this information. Their address is 1912 N St. NW, Washington D.C. 20036.)

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SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE MINISTER ANNOUNCES MEASURES TO PREVENT "SUICIDES" OF POLITICAL DETAINESS

NEW YORK (LNS)--South African Minister of Justice and of Police James Kruger announced in a Cape Town press conference in late March that new measures were being enacted in South African prisons to prevent "suicides" by political detainees. The measures are a response to the deaths of eleven detainees under South Africa's security laws, and of five other prisoners, during the last year. But critics of the apartheid regime hold the government responsible for the deaths of the political activists, which have been officially attributed to "falling down stairs," "slipping in the shower," and jumping through the window of a police interrogation center.

Among the "new measures" are: conducting all interrogation of detainees in ground-floor offices, depriving them of clothing in their cells at night, and the use of straight jackets and leg irons.

The Minister said that South African security and police forces "do everything in our power to prevent suicides. We want interrogation, not suicide." Kruger went on to explain that many people being held under detention were "Marxists and hardened terrorists who would rather commit suicide than be questioned."

The South African authorities are very concerned about the unfavorable publicity the "suicides" have generated throughout the world press. Kruger complained that "these prisoners seem to have no lack of funds and use legal representation freely to try to gain as much publicity as possible in order to smear the Prison Department and the Government."

He also claimed that security detainees "do their utmost to make circumstances as trying as possible by way of defiance and refusing to work, thus testing the patience of Prison Department officials as far as possible."

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(Thanks to Michael Gelb of Research Associates International)

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(See graphics)

MEXICAN EXILE FACES DEPORTATION FROM U.S. AFTER GOVERNMENT DENIAL OF POLITICAL ASYLUM

NEW YORK (LNS)--Jose Medina, a Mexican political exile living in Los Angeles, is facing a deportation in the wake of a recent government decision to deny him political asylum in this country.

Medina has been fighting to stay in the U.S. since he was picked up by the FBI in March, 1976. After hours of vities, he was turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for immediate deportation.

But Medina refused to be "voluntarily" deported. Instead he petitioned the State Department for political asylum, and began preparing for a deportation hearing. There he intends to show that the "illegal entry" charges against him are false, as well as to set procedural precedents strengthening the rights of undocumented workers who have faced intensified repression in recent months.

Most undocumented Mexicans who are arrested are deported without recourse and without legal representation. Of 100,000 people deported in 1975, only five per cent were represented by lawyers. Many of these people came to the U.S. in the first place because of severe disruption of Mexico's traditional labor-intensive agricultural economy. U.S. corporations, which now control 85 per cent of the Mexican economy, are largely responsible for their displacement.

Medina has attracted wide support in his effort to fight for the democratic rights of undocumented people. He is working, he told LNS, to dispel the myths propogated by the "government and multinational corporations that undocumented workers are the enemy of the working class in the United States." These people most often must work for the lowest wages because of their vulnerable situation, and have money deducted for taxes but do not receive the social services other people do. They are also commonly made scapegoats for the high unemployment rates during times of economic crises.

Protests against Medina's deportation hearing

CONTINUED ON INSIDE OF COVER)

(See graphics)

ENTRAPPED LABOR ACTIVISTS CONVICIED BY MASSACHUSETTS JURY

Editor's note: the following article was written from first-hand information supplied by Preston Gralla and Steve Turner, reporters for the Western Massachusetts weekly, The Valley Advocate. Additional information was compiled by LNS

NEW YORK (LNS)--Massachusetts labor activists Alex Markley and Antonio Suares were sentenced to 18 months and one year imprisonment, respectively, on April 14 Their tense, two-week trial ended March 26 when a Springfield jury found them guilty of possessing and transferring explosives to an undercover agent during a strike

Maintaining that they were entrapped by agents of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), they are currently free on bail pending an appeal of their case

The charges go back to the fall of 1975, when Local 259 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (UE) went on strike at Holyoke's Worthington Compressor Co. Markley was UE's field organizer, and Suares was a friend from another union.

The strike ended in victory for UE, with no fires, explosions or violence other than a scab's attack on a picketer who was hospitalized as a result However, 8 months later Markley and Suares were arrested on charges of conspiracy to use explosives, and the possession and transfer of explosives. According to Markley, he was entrapped by an ATF agent as part of the agency's plan to infiltrate and disrupt the labor movement

Entrapment

Markley and Suares were originally indicted on charges of conspiracy to blow up trucks that crossed the picket lines at the Worthington plant (this charge was dropped during the trial), and transferring "destructive devices" for that purpose to an undercover agent known to them as Gerry "Gerry" later turned out to be Special ATF agent Thomas O'Reilly, an explosives expert

Markley stated that during the strike, "Gerry" was continually calling him on the phone and meeting him on the picket line in an attempt to enlist his support in a plan to blow up scab trucks, daily crossing the picket lines

It wasn't until early July, 1976--8 months after the alleged conspiracy--that Markley was arrested Upon his arrest, he was held for 12 hours in the ATF office and interrogated about the affairs of UE and other unions in the area He was threatened that his indictment could lead to a 60-year jail sentence.

"Primarily they asked me about construction unions in the Springfield area, the Ironworkers and others," Markley told a Boston reporter in February They also asked him to introduce agents to other labor activists around Springfield

"They told me not to call my union--just get a lawyer--and said that if I weren't under indictment they would pay me for the information I'd give them," Markley said He refused to cooperate

Project "Q"

As a trade union activist who had organized 8 shops into the union and had never lost a union election in six years of organizing, Markley was a prime target for ATF But the plan that netted him is part of a much broader operation by the U S. Treasury Department and its subsidiary, ATF, known as Project Q.

Financed by Congress to the tune of several million dollars, Project Q's proclaimed purpose is to "disarm the criminal" of firearms and explosives Still in its formative stages, ATF has targeted three cities so far for special Project Q funds: Boston, Washington D C and Chicago

ATF's Project Q budget is $6.2 million for the current fiscal year, and additional funds are expected to be channeled into the project from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. According to the Boston Real Paper, that city's ATF office employs 131 agents, with an undisclosed number of paid informants.

Last year Congress limited its funding to cover only three of the 11 cities requested, and any budget increases will "depend on evaluation of the program we get from Congress," a Washington ATF spokesperson told The Valley Advocate, a western Massachusetts weekly However, publicity from the Markley and Suares trial has already pressed two Congress members to request the House Government Operations Committee to investigate ATF's role in infiltrating the labor movement

THE ATF OPERATION

The 4,000-employee Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) was significantly expanded under Richard Nixon. It now covers explosives, hijacking, gun and gambling laws.

Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy was an important figure in the growing ATF bureaucracy. He left 12 years of lobbying for a gun manufacturer to head the agency The appointees of Liddy and Jack Caulfield, another Watergate plumber, still control ATF

ATF has sent undercover agents and provocateurs into many leftist organizations Under the guise of law enforcement, it has broken into such organizations as the Seattle Committee to End Grand Jury Abuse in May, 1976 And AFT agents have played roles in most controversial grand juries and illegal FBI operations.

In late March, a prosecution witness whose testimony several years ago helped convict North Carolina black activists (the Wilmington 10) on firebombing charges, recanted his testimony and admitted to a state grand jury that ATF agents taught him how to build explosives--to back up his false testimony

Thanks to Julie Brooks of Counterspy Magazine and Preston Gralla of the Valley Advocate for this information, which appeared in Seven Days Magazine

The Trial

While evidence presented at the trial showed that Markley had expressed [illegible] anger about the scabs who were [illegible] daily in trucks during the strike, it was [illegible] fear that under-cover agents had initially proposed the bombing of the trucks and had repeatedly urged Markley to carry it out. There was also but one instance of [illegible] discussion about the bombing of the trucks, two months long strike.

The defense did not deny that the defendants had packed [illegible] toilet paper tubes filled with black powder--the AIF agent O'Reilly, but [illegible] the nature of these "explosives."

Based on evidence given by Howard Emmons, Professor of Engineering and Mechanical Engineering at Harvard University and a recognized expert in explosives, the defense argued that the toilet paper tubes had less explosive capacity than a firecracker in a fire racer; less incendiary effect than a pair of wet boots; and a blast wave equivalent to a blown-up paper bag, with no fragmentation effect and no deformation capacity.

Tests of the devices themselves showed that they didn't have the capability to dent a garbage can. When placed under the hood of a car, the exploded device didn't harm the engine, disturb the distributor or dent the hood. In fact, the "explosions" weren't even powerful enough to destroy the toilet paper tubes that held the black powder.

However, to offset Emmons' testimony, the prosecution produced Ralph Cooper, an Explosives Enforcement Officer in the Explosives Technical Division of AFI. Unlike Emmons, Cooper didn't use any instruments to measure the destructive capacity of the paper tubes. "Tests are not required to make a determination," he testified.

A device, he affirmed, becomes a destructive device based on the intent of the user, independent of the amount of damage it can do--even if it only has the power to knock over a house of cards.

Final Jury Instructions

In his final instructions to the jury, Judge Freedman upheld the defense when he stressed that intent had nothing to do with the destructive capacity of a device. The case, he stated, had come down to one point of law: were the devices "explosive bombs?" The jury's job was complicated by the fact that Congressional law makes no clear definition of what an explosive bomb is.

The jury had perhaps already been turned against Markley and Suares by the prosecution's emotional appeal. Holding up the toilet paper roll in front of the jury, the prosecutor had asked "Do you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, want these on the streets of Springfield unregulated?"

But one puzzling instruction that the judge delivered to the jury may have been more harmful. Having previously thrown out the conspiracy charge, the judge nevertheless permitted the jury to listen to tapes AIF agent O'Reilly had made of a conversation between Suares and Markley at a bar.

In it they spoke of possibly paying O'Reilly to blow up two scab trucks. O'Reilly admitted in the trial, however, that the plan had never materialized.

In any case, these tapes had no bearing on the narrow point of law the jury was instructed to base its decision on, and could only have served to push a split jury toward prosecution.

The jury returned its verdict of guilty after ten hours of deliberation.

Good Chances for Appeal

Markley feels his and Suares' chances for a successful appeal are good--especially in light of the solid support the two have gained. Virtually all of organized labor from the Connecticut Valley has backed them--along with scores of other labor organizations throughout the Northeast. Support from students in the University of Massachusetts in Amherst has also been strong.

"The verdict will not affect my position at the union," Markley said after the sentencing, "except that we're going to work twice as hard to clean up some of the lousy conditions around here."

Supporters are urged to ask their representatives in Congress to demand a Congressional investigation into the union busting tactics of the AFI.

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EXECUTIVES PULLING IN THE BONUSES

NEW YORK(LNS)--Corporate profits were up about 26% in 1976, and you should have seen the goodies being passed out in the executive suites.

At Chrysler, reports Business Week Magazine, Chairman John J. Riccardo received a $445,900 bonus in 1976 and the company's president, Eugene A. Cafiero, was paid a $401,300 bonus. Now, this may sound excessive, but look at the fact: neither man had received a bonus in the last two years, and while they were at the helm, Chrysler turned a $ 207 million loss in 1975 into a $328 million profit in '76. Some work!

No one can beat Harold S. Geneen's record at ITT, though. The chairman was top dog on the Business Week survey with total pay in 1976 at $846,398--a 9% increase over the previous year.

David J. Mahoney at Norton Simon, a consumer products corporation, gave Geneen a run for his money, though. His salary jumped 10% up to $400,000 and his bonus nearly doubled, to $444,000, to earn him $844,444 total. But Mahoney sings for his supper--he's both Chairman and president of Norton Simon.

Still, everything wasn't coming up roses for executives, says Business Week. Poor Edgar B. Speer of U.S. Steel saw his bonus drop 9%--though his total pay was up 4% to $425,000.

But what could Speer expect? Profits were off 27% at U.S. Steel and that's the way the cookie crumbles.

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FEDERAL HEARINGS ON OCCUPATIONAL LEAD EXPOSURE POINTS TO DANGERS AND COST-CUTTING INDUSTRY PRACTICES

NEW YORK (LNS) -- A month-long series of federal hearings on occupational lead standards was completed April 13 in Washington, DC Conducted by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), the hearings are aimed at gathering data to establish federal safety regulations regarding exposure to lead

Many health and labor groups have criticized OSHA's work in the past, and the outcome of the current hearings is not yet clear "In its six-year life," one observer noted, "OSHA, whose mandate is to provide a 'safe and healthy workplace' for all workers, has only set 14 standards "

Approximately 1 3 million workers are exposed to lead in their workplaces An estimated 15,000 to 25,000 workers in smelters and battery plants receive the highest exposures Welding, painting, metal burning, and printing also cause a significant exposure

Exposure to lead causes workers to have elevated lead levels in their blood Scientists believe such high levels can lead to kidney disease, diseases of the blood-forming organs, diseases of the nervous system (some potentially fatal) and reproductive dysfunction including increased risk of spontaneous abortion and miscarriage Children with high lead levels are known to suffer from retardation

Currently OSHA standards for lead permit exposure in the workplace as high as 200 micrograms per cubic meter of air over an 8 hour period OSHA is now proposing that maximum exposure to lead in the workplace be lowered to 100 micrograms, and also that blood lead levels in workers should not exceed 60 micrograms of lead per hundred grams of blood

This is considered by occupational and community health groups to be just on the border of producing clinical symptoms of lead poisoning Most industries are recommending a blood level of 80 micrograms, and most unions and community groups feel the level must be lowered to 40 micrograms in order to protect workers

Industry Rotates, Fires Workers to Circumvent Standards

Industry has been opposed to *any* government standard for maximum lead levels in the *air* in factories, preferring to monitor lead levels in workers and reduce lead exposures only when worker lead levels exceed the allowable limit This approach allows them to avoid the expense of cleaning up their factories while giving them the flexibility to rotate employees, fire those with high lead levels, and give workers drugs known as chelating agents which reduce blood lead levels but have other serious health consequences.

An added twist in the current lead hearings is the manner in which reproductive effects of a health hazard are being viewed Lead can be transferred to a fetus through the placenta or to an infant through breast milk Many companies are now using this, *not* as a reason to decrease lead exposure, but rather as an excuse not to hire women workers for certain jobs General Motors, for example, only hires women for production jobs who are "post menopausal or surgically sterilized "

Healthright, a women's health group, testified at the hearing to denounce the sexism of the industry practices.

Health groups, women's organizations, and labor unions have worked together in protesting the double standards and in fighting to set exposure limits which are safe for all workers.

Tough Standards Unlikely

Now that the Washington hearings have been completed, further testimony will be received in hearing in St Louis beginning April 26th and in San Francisc beginning May 3rd No decision on the regulation of lead exposure will be made until all transcripts have been reviewed

However, many observers are pessimistic about the outcome of the hearings OSHA has a reputation of being biased towards industry and the standards they set have frequently been criticized by health and labor groups for being far too weak One woman at Healthright noted that the kinds of standards likely to be set will simply mean that it will take longer for exposed workers to develop clinical symptoms

Furthermore, President Jimmy Carter has recently required that the standard-setting process must consider economic-impact statements filed by companies, which describe the economic costs of implementing the proposed standards

"They don't allow any discussion of the *social* costs," said one informed observer "So they're only showing half the story It creates a very pro-industry bias which says it's more profitable to kill people than not to " -30-

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THAI INTERIOR MINISTER continued from page 7

zones in half the country's 70 provinces

Most of Samak's talk, in fact, was devoted to attacking his political rivals within the government, reflecting the deepening splits and growing instability of the regime. He consequently failed to win even a substantial minority of his audience to the government side

"I have a sense the Thai people don't respect him," the afore-mentioned observer at Samak's talk concluded carefully. "I talked to several Thai who said, "he's just a propagandist for the government."

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(Ted Chandler is a journalist and researcher on Asian affairs.)

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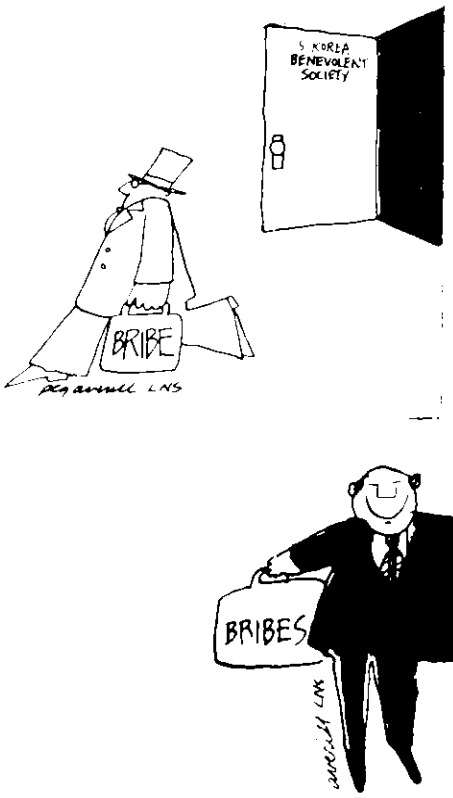
COMPANY FINED $490 FOR EXPLOSION WHICH KILLED TWO WORKERS

NEW YORK (LNS)--More than five months after an explosion at the Phillips Petroleum Plant in Kansas City killed two pipefitters, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has concluded that the company was negligent, and has fined them $490.

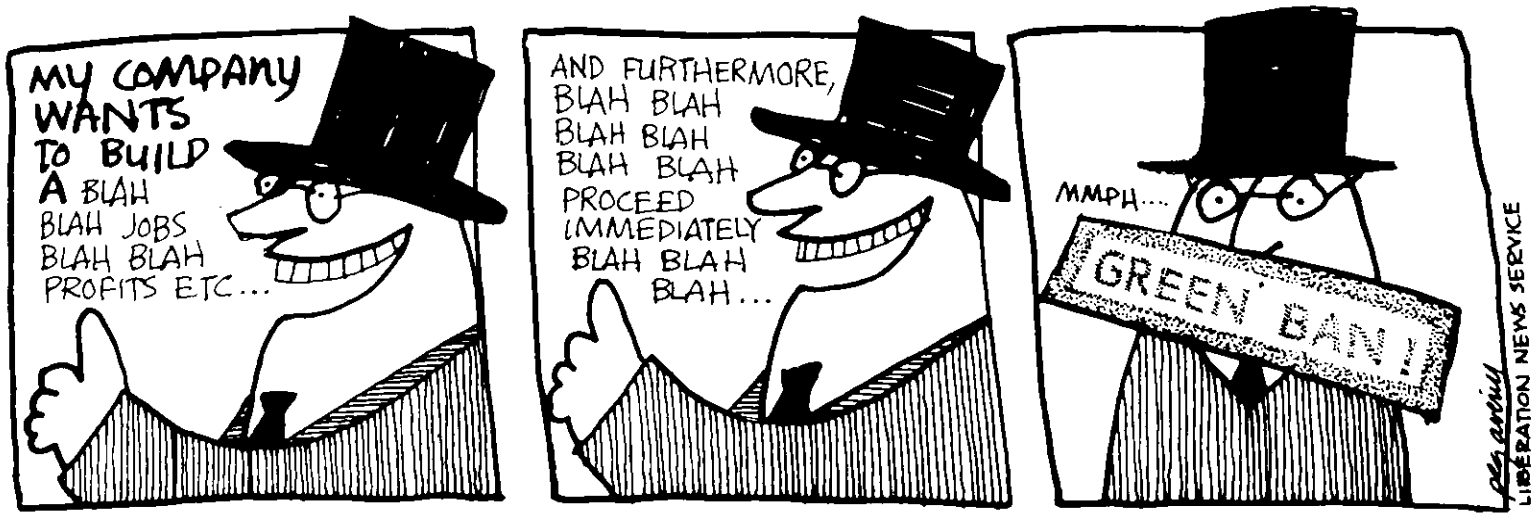
Asked to comment on the government's penalty, Anthony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union told LNS, "We've stated over and over again that these fines are ludicrous amounts

"Ultimately," Mazzocchi explained, "there have to be other kinds of penalties, like enjoining actions to stop companies from operating unless their safe "

- 30 -


S. KOREA
BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY
BRIBE
BRIBES

TOP
LABOR
SPIES
LOCAL


MY COMPANY WANTS TO BUILD A BLAH BLAH JOBS BLAH BLAH PROFITS ETC...
AND FURTHERMORE, BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH PROCEED IMMEDIATELY BLAH BLAH BLAH...
MMPH...
GREEN BAN!
LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

Top Right: Tony Soares, left, and Alex Markley, two labor activists convicted March 26, 1977 of possessing explosives. They were entrapped by government agents.

CREDIT: Liberator/LNS

TO GO WITH THE STORY ON PAGE TEN

Top Left: Drawing of Jack Mundey, whose union, the Australian Builders Labourers Federation, has led the "green ban," a labor/environment coalition.

CREDIT: Richard Wilson/NOT MAN APART/LNS

SEE PAGE ONE FOR THE STORY.

Middle Right: Photo of a demonstration in Springfield, Mass. during the fall of 1976 protesting the use of government spies and the ensuing entrapment of two labor activists.

CREDIT: Liberator/LNS

SEE THE STORY ON PAGE TEN

Middle Left: Two graphics about South Korean bribes.

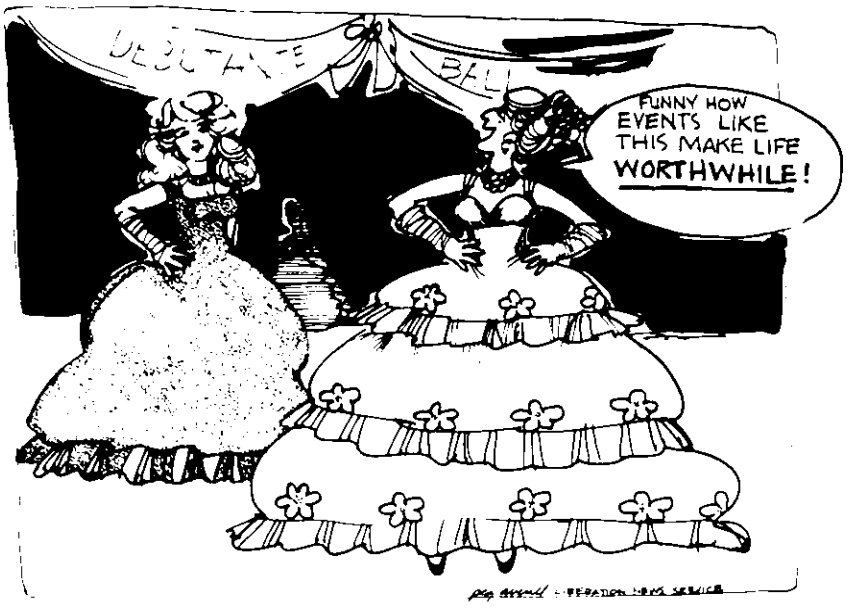
CREDIT: Peg Averill/LNS

COULD GO WITH THE STORY IN PACKET 858 ON KOREA.

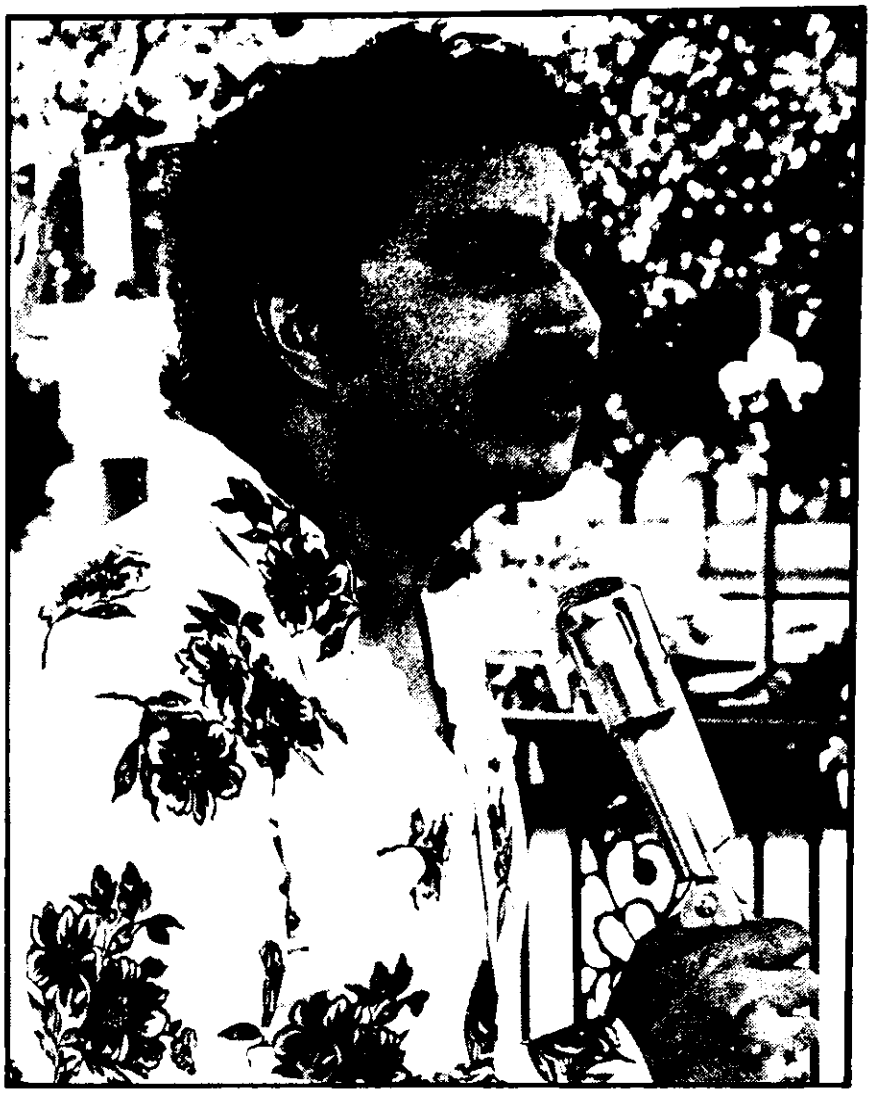
Bottom: The Australian Green Ban Movement is a labor/environmental coalition organized to withhold labor from government and privately financed projects which are environmentally or socially detrimental.

CREDIT: Peg Averill/LNS

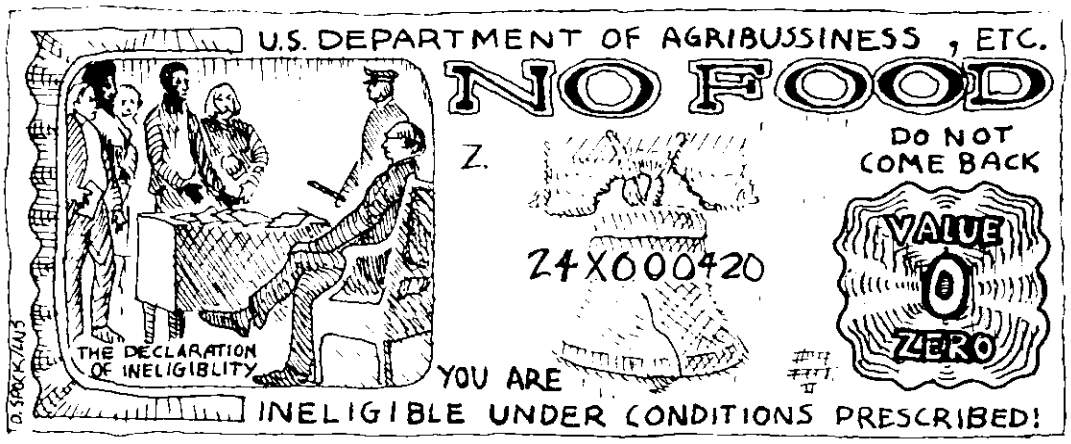
SEE PAGE ONE.

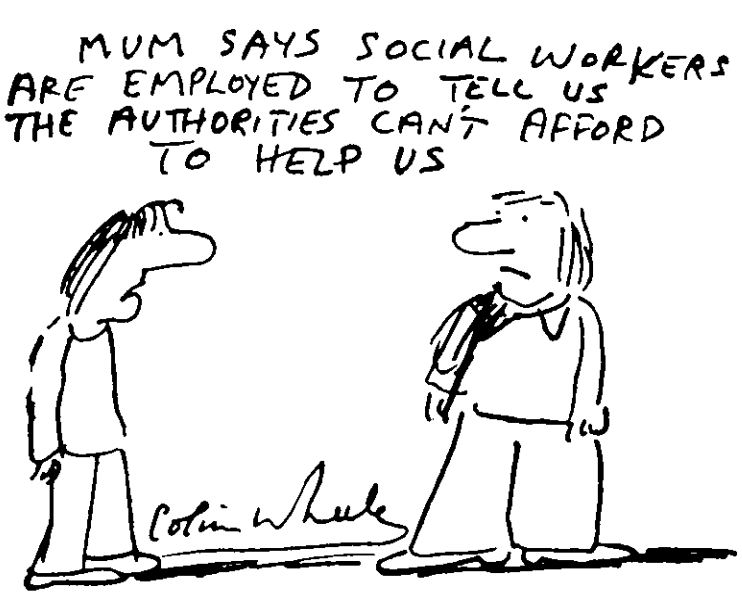

DEBUTANTE
BALL
FUNNY HOW EVENTS LIKE THIS MAKE LIFE WORTHWHILE!

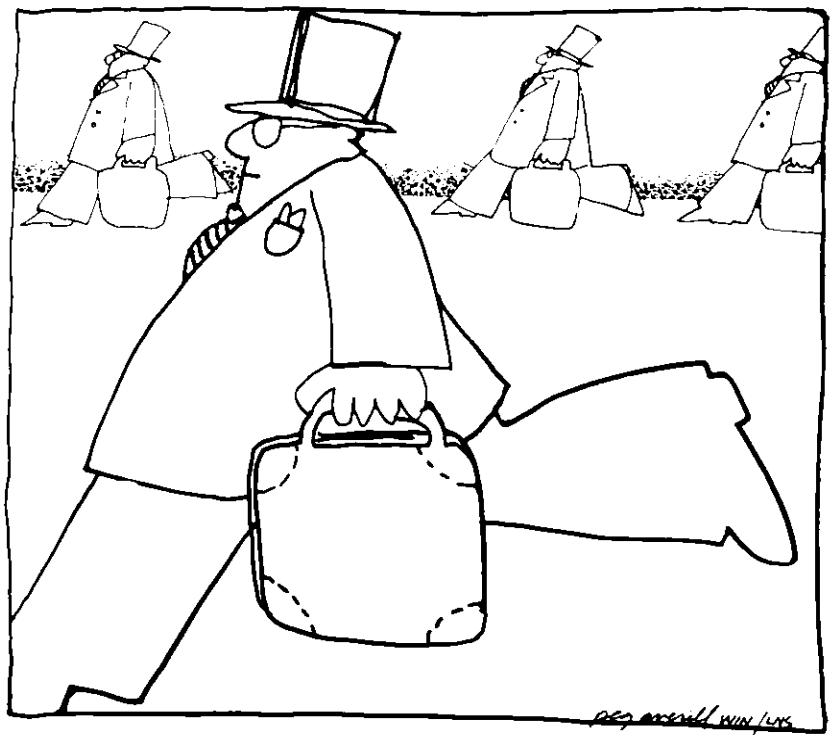
LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE



Food is what's left after you take away the wrappers.


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSSINESS, ETC.
NO FOOD
DO NOT COME BACK
Z.
24X000420
VALUE 0 ZERO
THE DECLARATION OF INELIGIBLITY
YOU ARE
INELIGIBLE UNDER CONDITIONS PRESCRIBED!


MUM SAYS SOCIAL WORKERS ARE EMPLOYED TO TELL US THE AUTHORITIES CAN'T AFFORD TO HELP US



TOP RIGHT: Jose Jacques Medina speaking at a rally in Los Angeles on December 20, 1976 against the Eilberg law

SEE THE STORY ON PAGE NINE

MIDDLE RIGHT: Carter's new food stamp proposal would bring into the program 2.5 million people too poor to buy stamps now. But the plan would cut 1.5 million now on the rolls off and would reduce benefits for a substantial number of others

CREDIT: Dan Spock/LNS

TO GO WITH THE STORY ON PAGE FOUR

BOTTOM RIGHT: Peg Averill/LNS

TOP LEFT CREDIT: Peg averill/LNS

COULD GO WITH THE SHORT ON DEBUTANTS ON PAGE THREE.

UPPER MIDDLE LEFT: Inflation.

CREDIT: Peg Averill/LNS

LOWER MIDDLE LEFT:
Peg Averill/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Social service cutbacks.

CREDIT: ANS/LNS